THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In accordance with the information received from the State Government, 15 SSI Units based on slack wax closed down due to the non-availability of wax as a raw material from the Barauni Oil Refinery.

(c) Wax is a decontrolled product. Barauni refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) used to produce slack wax from Assam crude up to November, 2000. Thereafter the Assam crude was diverted to Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) and Barauni refinery is now being run on imported crude. Production of wax from imported crude is not economically viable. IOCL floated tenders twice during April, 2002 and July, 2003 for import of wax. The wax processors did not come forward to accept the imported wax citing its high price.

Working Group to revamp NAIS

*59. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Agriculture has in association with the Ministry of Finance, set up a Joint Working Group to revamp the Crop Insurance Scheme, looking at the farmers' suicides in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the terms of reference given to the working group; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed for submitting its report; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) A Joint Group consisting members from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance and Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. has been constituted to study the improvements required in the existing Crop Insurance Schemes. The terms of reference of the Group are:—

(i) To review the status position of existing Crop Insurance Schemes *i.e.* National Agricultural Insurance (NAIS), Pilot

Project on Farm Income Insurance Scheme (FIIS), Varsha Bima Yojana and other agriculture related schemes floated by Private General Insurance Companies.

(ii) Improvements required in NAIS.

(iii) To develop broad parameters/concept paper of an appropriate and farmers' friendly crop insurance scheme after taking into account the professional inputs obtained from experts and private sector general insurance companies.

(iv) To make an assessment of up-front subsidy, if any, to be paid by the Government.

(c) The Group was required to submit its report by 31st October, 2004.

Financial irregularities at AIIMS

*60. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of serious financial irregularities in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, as pointed out by audit recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether responsibility therefor has been fixed on the concerned officers, particularly those who failed to recover loans and advances running into lakhs of rupees given to the officers and staff;

(c) if so, the names of said officers of the rank of section heads and above; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against those responsible for creating financial mess?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) The Audit Inspection Report for the period from 1.4.2002 to 31.3.2003 on the accounts of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, has been received in April, 2004 from the